

June 27, 2008

Ramona Garrett
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, Ca 94533

As Fire Chief for the City of Vacaville, I have been directed by Vacaville City Manager David Van Kirk to respond to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report Entitled: **Solano County Fire Protection Districts.**

Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1 – Funding for Fire Districts is limited. One of the most critical needs is for the fire fighting vehicles.

I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 1a – Fire Protection Districts and the Board of Supervisors should work together to identify funding sources for regular replacement of older vehicles. Provisions in the Government Code authorize additional funding sources.

I agree that the Fire Protection Districts and the Board of Supervisors should work together to identify funding sources for regular replacement of older vehicles. I am not familiar with the provision of the Government Code cited here.

Recommendation 1b – Fire Protection Districts and the Board of Supervisors should continue to explore cooperative opportunities to obtain additional funds through creative efforts such as grants.

I agree with the recommendation, subject to the following. I don't believe that these "creative efforts" should include changes to LAFCO's existing policy, which would "provide temporary funding to the Fire Districts to relieve the impact of the loss of funds" upon annexations of Fire District territory. As explained more fully in the Vacaville City Attorney's letters to the LAFCO Board of Directors, dated April 21, 2008 and May 29, 2008, LAFCO lacks the legal authority to impose such temporary payments to the Fire Districts as a condition of annexation.

Finding 2 – Communication is often difficult because equipment and frequencies used by different fire fighting agencies are not compatible.

I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 2 – Fire Protection Districts, Cities, and the County should standardize and consolidate communications as soon as possible.

I agree with this recommendation.

Finding 3 – Dispatching is challenging because dispatchers also serve law enforcement agencies.

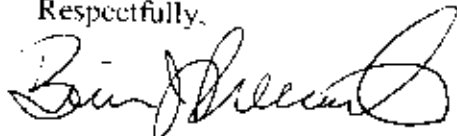
I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 3 – The Fire Districts, Cities, and the County should explore options to develop a centralized Fire Dispatch.

The above agencies have explored this and for now, concluded it too cost prohibitive for further consideration.

This concludes my response to the Grand Jury Report, should you require further of me, please let me know.

Respectfully,



Brian Preciado, Vacaville City Fire Chief
650 Merchant St.
Vacaville, Ca 95688
(707)4495460

Copies:

David Van Kirk, City Manager for the City of Vacaville
Jerry Hobrecht, City Attorney for the City of Vacaville